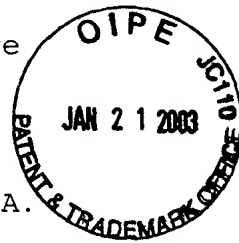


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Patent

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Lap-Wai Chow, et al. ) Re: Information Disclosure  
Serial No.: 09/768,911 ) Statement  
Group: 2827  
Filed: January 24, 2001 ) Examiner: Zarneke, David A.  
For: "INTEGRATED CIRCUITS PROTECTED )  
AGAINST REVERSE ENGINEERING ) Our Ref: B-3962 618027-2  
AND METHOD FOR FABRICATING THE )  
SAME USING VIAS WITHOUT METAL )  
TERMINATIONS" ) Date: January 14, 2003



Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the Applicants' duty to disclose information which may be material to the examination of this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that the Examiner consider on the merits the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) before issuing the first Office Action on the merits. We are enclosing herewith a copy of each document listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified).

A copy of the International Search Report is enclosed herewith. The documents listed on Form-1449 (modified) are those cited in the International Search Report of Application No. PCT/US02/00121 (3 pages).

Please note that U.S. Patent No. 5,146,117 cited in the enclosed Search Report for PCT/US02/00121, was previously cited in an IDS filed on August 9, 2002 for the subject application. Also, European Patent No. 1193758A1 was previously cited by the Examiner in the Official Action issued on August 14, 2002. Therefore, copies of these documents are not included in this IDS.

The undersigned certifies that each item of information contained in the first IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

This IDS is being submitted after receiving a Notice of Allowance,

**Match & Return**

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but prior to the payment of an issue fee. Thus, the references listed in this IDS should be fully considered, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d). Enclosed is a check for \$180.00, which is the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists.

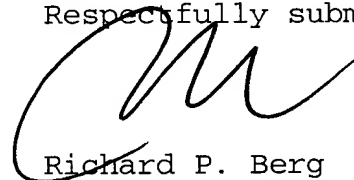
The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. (Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.)

The person making this statement is the practitioner who signs below on the basis of information supplied by an individual associated with the filing and prosecution of this application (37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c)) and on the basis of information in the practitioner's file.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the "Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231", on January 14, 2003 by Alexis Karriker.

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted,



Richard P. Berg  
Attorney for Applicant  
Reg. No. 28,145

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Los Angeles, CA 90036  
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Enclosures: Form PTO-1449 (modified) (1 page)  
Copy of Search Report for PCT/US02/00121 (3 pages)  
Copy of documents listed on Form PTO-1449 (modified)  
A check for \$180.00